

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Mercedes E. Gill et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,515

Filed: October 21, 2001

Docket No.: 10011313-1

Title: APPARATUS AND METHODOLOGY FOR AN INPUT PORT OF A SWITCH THAT SUPPORTS CUT-THROUGH OPERATION WITHIN THE SWITCH (As Amended)

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed May 18, 2004. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 16, 25, 28, 29, 32, 40, 49, 52, 53, 56, 64, 73, 78, and 80 were rejected. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9-15, 17-24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33-39, 41-48, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57-63, 65-72, 74, 76, 77, and 81 have been objected to. With this Response, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30, 45, 47, 49-51, 54, 73, 74, and 76 have been amended. Claims 1-81 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Specification

Applicant noted a few typographical errors in the specification, which have now been corrected with the present amendment.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 2-3, 6, 26-27, 30, 50-51, 53, 74, and 76 because of the acronym VL15. Applicants believe that Examiner's reference to claim 53 was intended to be a reference to claim 54, which actually includes reference to the acronym VL15.

Consequently, the acronym VL15 has been removed from each of the claims and replaced with language having proper antecedent basis.

In view of the above, claims 2-3, 6, 26-27, 30, 50-51, 53, 74, and 76 are believed to be in form for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be reconsidered, and the rejection be removed and that these claims be allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 16, 25, 28-29, 32, 40, 49, 52-53, 56, 64, 73, 78, and 80 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pettey et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,549,712 in view of Susnow U.S. Patent No. 6,594,329.

The Pettey et al. patent discloses an infiniband channel adapter for performing direct data transfers between a PCI bus and an infiniband link without double-buffering the data in system memory. The disclosed infiniband channel adapter is described as part of the infiniband I/O unit 108 illustrated in Figure 3, and described in column 6, line 31. As

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indicated, this infiniband I/O unit 108 couples to the infiniband fabric 114. As also indicated, this infiniband fabric 114 may includes an infiniband switch 106.

The Examiner argues that the Pettey et al. discloses an input port to a switching core referring to column 8, line 8 through column 9, line 32. The Examiner is presumably relying on transaction switch 302 illustrated in Figure 3 of the Pettey et al. patent. Unlike the switch claimed in independent claim 25, however, this transaction switch 302 disclosed in the Pettey et al. patent is part of the target channel adapter 202 (illustrated in Figure 3), which is in turn part of the infiniband I/O unit 108 (illustrated in Figure 1). This transaction switch 302 disclosed in the Pettey et al. patent, is not analogous to the switch of claim 25, such as the example embodiment infiniband switch 106, which is part of the infiniband fabric 114 illustrated in Figure 1.

Specifically, independent claim 25 is a switch including a switching core, and arbiter and input port, and an output port. The transaction switch 304 disclosed in the Pettey et al. patent, lacks an arbiter, an input port, and an output as described and claimed in claim 25. Rather, the transaction switch 302 in the Pettey et al. patent simply connects a PCI bus to a bus router and infiniband media access controllers. This does not teach or suggest the switch claimed in independent claim 25.

In this way, it is believed that claim 25, and dependent claims 26-48, which depend from claim 25 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1, 49, and 73 have been amended to incorporate a portion of allowed subject matter from dependent claims 7, 55, and 77, respectively. As indicated below, the Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 55, and 77 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims. Accordingly, Applicant has added limitations from this allowable subject matter in order to place independent claims 1, 49, and 73 in condition for allowance.

In this way, claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation that a grant may be received by the packet Tx unit before the packet is completely stored in the memory. Similarly, claim 49 was amended to add the limitation that a grant may be received before the packet is completely stored in memory. Finally, claim 73 was amended to include the limitation that the grant may be received before the packet is completely stored in memory. As indicated, the Examiner has indicated that claims with this limitation are allowable subject

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matter because none of the art of record teaches or suggest such a system or method. Consequently, it is believed that independent claims 1, 49, and 73 are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-24, 50-72, and 74-81, which respectively depend from independent claims 1, 49 and 73 are also in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 16, 25, 28-29, 32, 40, 49, 52-53, 56, 64, 73, 78, and 80, and request allowance of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9-15, 17-24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33-39, 41-48, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57-63, 65-72, 74, 76, 77, and 81 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections. Independent claims 1, 49, and 73 have been amended using portions of the indicated allowable subject matter and independent claim 25 is believed allowable as indicated above, consequently, all of these dependent claims are condition for allowance in dependent form because they respectively depend from patentably distinct independent claim 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-81 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-81 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

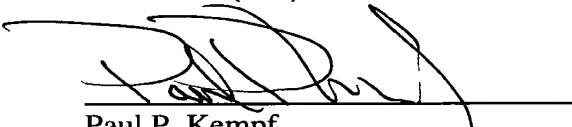
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18th day of August, 2004.

By 
Name: Paul P. Kempf